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Part II
Political affairs

Section 6
Peaceful uses of outer space

(Programme 4 of the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005)***

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* Reissued for technical reasons.

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Section 6
Peaceful uses of outer space

(Programme 4 of the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005)

Overview

6.1 Following the launch of the first man-made object into outer space in October 1958, the General Assembly recognized the need for a mechanism to ensure broad international cooperation in space activities. By its resolution 1472 A (XIV) of 12 December 1959, the Assembly established the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and mandated it to promote international cooperation in space activities, to organize mutual exchange and dissemination of information on outer space research, to encourage and assist national space programmes and to study the nature of legal problems that might arise from the exploration of outer space. That mandate was reaffirmed by the Assembly in its resolution 1721 B (XVI) of 20 December 1961, in which the Assembly confirmed its belief that the United Nations should provide a focal point for international cooperation in the peaceful exploration and use of outer space. The Assembly requested the Committee, in cooperation with the Secretary-General and making full use of the Secretariat, to maintain close contact with organizations concerned with space activities, as well as to provide for information exchange and assistance in the study of measures for promoting international cooperation in space. Those resolutions, along with the recommendations of the Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE III), convened in 1999, which were endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 54/68 of 6 December 1999, are the basis for activities that have evolved under programme 4, Peaceful uses of outer space, of the revised medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005. Within the Secretariat, substantive responsibility for the programme is vested in the Office for Outer Space Affairs.

6.2 The scope and importance of space applications cover a wide range of human activities. Space applications are an essential part of operational communications; weather forecasting; management of land and ocean resources; mitigation, preparedness and early warning of disasters; relief and rehabilitation; environmental monitoring; distance education; medical and health services in remote and rural areas; and other social and economic activities in many countries. Space science and technology have become an integral part of daily human activities. They will further improve living conditions for humanity in the coming years and contribute to the achievement of the goals of the United Nations Millennium Declaration (see General Assembly resolution 55/2).

6.3 While the end of the cold war enhanced opportunities for international cooperation in space activities between various countries, those with space capabilities have been experiencing difficulty in obtaining funding for costly space programmes. The need for new public sector initiatives in civil space activities has begun to be examined more in terms of economic and social benefits and values to society. At the same time, there has been an expansion of commercial space-related services and products offered by the private sector. The private sector now plays an important role in bringing the benefits of space down to the Earth. The programme on the peaceful uses of outer space will take into account the impact and potential of commercial activities of the private sector in increasing benefits for developing countries.

6.4 UNISPACE III recognized the benefits of using space science and technology and their applications to promote various aspects of sustainable development. However, such benefits have not reached many of those living in poverty, particularly in developing countries. The programme on the peaceful uses of outer space will focus on creating synergy among efforts being made around the world, including those by non-State actors, to demonstrate how space science and

technology and their applications can be used to meet the basic needs of people and to improve the living conditions of individuals, thus reducing poverty. The programme will also aim to strengthen and coordinate efforts being made around the world to increase the awareness and deepen the understanding of decision makers involved in social and economic development of the usefulness and cost-effectiveness of space applications and their short-term as well as long-term benefits.

6.5 Expanding the peaceful uses of space science and technology through international cooperation constitutes an important part of United Nations efforts to achieve the goals envisaged in the Millennium Declaration. This expansion will need to be enhanced further in order to ensure that space science and technology and their applications benefit all people and do not lead to a widening of the gap between the rich and the poor. As a result of the expansion and diversification of space activities and the changing international political and economic environment, including the involvement of non-State players, the United Nations will have to take action to address important new political, social, economic, technological and legal issues.

6.6 During the biennium, the Office will provide substantive assistance to the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and its subsidiary bodies in their preparations for the review by the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth session of the outcome of the implementation of the recommendations of UNISPACE III. Following a decision by the Assembly, the Office will shift the focus of its activities to areas where efforts still need to be strengthened to ensure the full implementation of recommendations and where further follow-up action or new initiatives will be required to build on what will have been accomplished. The strategy to address global challenges, as articulated in the resolution entitled "The Space Millennium: Vienna Declaration on Space and Human Development", adopted by UNISPACE III, will continue to provide the policy framework for the programme of work of the Office throughout the biennium.

6.7 Pursuant to General Assembly resolutions 55/122 of 8 December 2000, 56/51 of 10 December 2001 and 57/116 of 11 December 2002, the Office will continue its efforts to ensure that the benefits of space technology and its applications are prominently brought to the attention of conferences organized within the United Nations system aimed at addressing global issues related to social, economic and cultural development. Particular emphasis will be placed on promoting the use of space science and technology and their applications in implementing the United Nations Millennium Declaration and follow-up actions of the World Summit on Sustainable Development.

6.8 The programme's main expected accomplishments and indicators of achievement for the biennium 2004-2005 are set out in detail, together with the required resources, under "Programme of work" below. The overall framework of these expected accomplishments and indicators of achievement is shown in table 6.1.

Table 6.1 **Framework of expected accomplishments and indicators of achievement by component**

Component	*Number of expected accomplishments*	*Number of indicators of achievement*
Programme of work	3	4
Total	**3**	**4**

6.9 The issue of publications as a part of the programme of work has been reviewed. It is anticipated that recurrent and non-recurrent publications will be issued as shown in table 6.2 and as described under "outputs" below.

Table 6.2 **Summary of publications**

Publications	*2000-2001 actual*	*2002-2003 estimate*	*2004-2005 estimate*
Recurrent	5	6	-
Non-recurrent	10	18	10
Total	**15**	**24**	**10**

6.10 The overall level of resources for the biennium 2004-2005 amounts to $4,573,600 before recosting, reflecting growth of $258,300 (5.9%).

Programme of work

6.11 The distribution of resources is summarized in tables 6.3 and 6.4.

Table 6.3 **Resource requirements by component**

(Thousands of United States dollars)

(1) *Regular budget*

Component	*2000-2001 expenditure*	*2002-2003 appropriation*	*Resource growth*		*Total before recosting*	*Recosting*	*2004-2005 estimate*
			Amount	*Percentage*			
Programme of work	3 370.0	4 315.3	258.3	5.9	4 573.6	233.5	4 807.1
Total	**3 370.0**	**4 315.3**	**258.3**	**5.9**	**4 573.6**	**233.5**	**4 807.1**

(2) *Extrabudgetary*

	2000-2001 expenditure	*2002-2003 estimate*	*2004-2005 estimate*
Total	**535.1**	**826.0**	**700.0**
Total (1) and (2)	**3 905.1**	**5 141.3**	**5 507.1**

Table 6.4 **Post requirements**

Category	Established regular budget posts		Temporary posts				Total	
			Regular budget		Extrabudgetary			
	2002-2003	2004-2005	2002-2003	2004-2005	2002-2003	2004-2005	2002-2003	2004-2005
Professional and above								
D-2	1	1	-	-	-	-	1	1
D-1	1	1	-	-	-	-	1	1
P-5	2	2	-	-	-	-	2	2
P-4/3	8	8	-	-	-	-	8	8
P-2/1	3	3	-	-	-	-	3	3
Subtotal	**15**	**15**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**15**	**15**
General Service								
Other level	5	5	-	-	-	-	5	5
Subtotal	**5**	**5**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**5**	**5**
Total	**20**	**20**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**20**	**20**

Resource requirements (before recosting): $4,573,600

6.12 During the biennium, the Office will assist the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and its subsidiary bodies in conducting an assessment of the implementation of the recommendations of UNISPACE III, in particular those contained in the Vienna Declaration. The assessment will include identifying the recommendations that have not been implemented, thus requiring efforts at the global level, and those recommendations that are no longer considered necessary because of recent developments within the space-related community. The Office will assist the Committee and its subsidiary bodies in formulating and implementing a plan of action that takes into account the results of the review by the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth session, in 2004, of the outcome of the implementation of the recommendations of UNISPACE III. In accordance with that plan, the Office will also make any necessary adjustments to the activities of the Office to be carried out within the framework of the United Nations Programme on Space Applications. The activities carried out under the United Nations Programme on Space Applications will focus on developing the capacity of developing countries to use space technology applications for their sustainable development.

6.13 The Office will continue to serve as the focal point for the coordination of and cooperation in space-related activities within the United Nations system. The Office will strengthen its efforts to create synergy among the various entities of the United Nations system so as to increase awareness on the part of decision makers of the usefulness of space science and technology and their applications in implementing the recommendations of global conferences that have addressed various issues related to social, economic and cultural development.

Table 6.5 **Objectives for the biennium, expected accomplishments, indicators of achievement and performance measures**

Objective: The objective of the programme is to deepen the understanding of the international community with respect to ongoing space activities and the role that space technology can play in economic and social development. The programme aims to facilitate the use of space science and technology in solving problems of regional or global significance, with an emphasis on their application for sustainable development within and outside the United Nations system. To achieve this objective, the programme takes into account the strategy of addressing global challenges in the future, as articulated in the Vienna Declaration on Space and Human Development, as well as the measures agreed to by the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space to implement the recommendations of the Conference.

Expected accomplishments	*Indicators of achievement*
(a) Greater adherence by the international community to the international legal regime established by the United Nations to govern outer space activities	(a) An increase in the number of States having ratified the five major United Nations treaties governing outer space activities[a] *Performance measures*: 2000-2001: 321 ratifications (for all 5 treaties) Estimate 2002-2003: 325 ratifications (for all 5 treaties) Target 2004-2005: 330 ratifications (for all 5 treaties)
(b) Increased awareness in the international community of the effective application of space science and technology in economic, social and cultural development	(b) (i) An increase in the number of global conferences organized within the United Nations system to address issues of social, economic and cultural development and to make specific reference in their final recommendations or political declarations to space science and technology or their applications as effective tools for achieving the objectives of the conferences *Performance measures*: 2000-2001: 0 conferences Estimate 2002-2003: 1 conference Target 2004-2005: 2 conferences

	(ii) An increase in the number of initiatives to follow up global conferences organized within the United Nations system that address issues of social, economic and cultural development involving the use of space science and technology or their applications
	Performance measures:
	2000-2001: 0 initiatives to follow up global conferences
	Estimate 2002-2003: 3 initiatives to follow up global conferences
	Target 2004-2005: 5 initiatives to follow up global conferences
(c) Increased social and economic benefits for developing countries resulting from the implementation of some of the recommendations of UNISPACE III, in particular those contained in the Vienna Declaration	(c) New pilot projects or educational and training opportunities initiated or facilitated by the Office for Outer Space Affairs to build the capacity of developing countries to use space technology in their operational programmes and projects in support of social and economic development
	Performance measures:
	2000-2001: 0 pilot projects or training opportunities initiated or facilitated by the Office for Outer Space Affairs
	Estimate 2002-2003: 2 pilot projects or training opportunities initiated or facilitated by the Office for Outer Space Affairs
	Target 2004-2005: 5 pilot projects or training opportunities initiated or facilitated by the Office for Outer Space Affairs

* The five treaties are: (i) Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies (General Assembly resolution 2222 (XXI), annex); (ii) Agreement on the Rescue of Astronauts, the Return of Astronauts and the Return of Objects Launched into Outer Space (Assembly resolution 2345 (XXII), annex); (iii) Convention on International Liability for Damage Caused by Space Objects (Assembly resolution 2777 (XXVI), annex); (iv) Convention on Registration of Objects Launched into Outer Space (Assembly resolution 3235 (XXIX), annex); and (v) Agreement Governing the Activities of States on the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies (Assembly resolution 34/68, annex).

External factors

6.14 The programme is expected to achieve its objectives and expected accomplishments on the assumption that:

(a) Major policy decisions made by countries with space capabilities will not lead to a decrease in the overall resources available in the public sector for civil space activities;

(b) Governments continue to fulfil their international responsibilities and obligations under the international treaties governing outer space activities in spite of the greater involvement of non-State entities in such activities;

(c) There will be steady growth of space-related industries in spite of a possible economic downturn and financial crisis during the biennium.

Outputs

6.15 During the biennium 2004-2005, the following outputs will be delivered:

(a) Servicing of intergovernmental/expert bodies (regular budget):

(i) General Assembly:

a. Substantive servicing of meetings: plenary meetings on the agenda item entitled "Review of the implementation of the recommendations of the Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space" (3);

b. Parliamentary documentation: annual report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the recommendations of UNISPACE III; report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space on the implementation of the recommendations of UNISPACE III; and reports of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space on the work of its forty-seventh and forty-eighth sessions;

(ii) Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee): substantive servicing: provision of substantive secretariat services to the Working Group of the Whole on space-related agenda items of the Fourth Committee (3 or 4 meetings per year) (6) and provision of substantive servicing for plenary meetings of the Committee (12-15 meetings per year) (30);

(iii) Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space: parliamentary documentation: conference room papers; other documents prepared for scheduled meetings; reports of the Legal Subcommittee of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space on the work of its forty-third and forty-fourth sessions; and reports of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space on the work of its forty-first and forty-second sessions;

(iv) Scientific and Technical Subcommittee:

a. Substantive servicing: organization of a space industry symposium during the forty-first session of the Subcommittee (1) and provision of substantive secretariat services to the plenary and working groups (18-20 meetings per year) (40);

b. Parliamentary documentation: conference room papers; final reports of the action teams established by the Committee to implement recommendations of UNISPACE III; other documents prepared for scheduled meetings; report of the United Nations Expert on Space Applications; reports containing contributions by Member States and international organizations to the consideration of agenda items of the Subcommittee, at the request of the Subcommittee; reports containing contributions by Member States and international organizations to the consideration of agenda items of the Subcommittee, at the request of the Subcommittee (2 or 3 reports per year); reports containing submissions by Member States and international organizations on their space-related activities (2 or 3 reports, containing 10-12 submissions per year); reports of workshops, training courses, symposiums, conferences and seminars organized within the

framework of the United Nations Programme on Space Applications (6-8 reports per year); and technical reports relating to agenda items of the Subcommittee;

(v) Legal Subcommittee:

a. Substantive servicing of meetings: provision of substantive secretariat services to the plenary and working groups of the Subcommittee (18-20 meetings per year) (40);

b. Parliamentary documentation: conference room papers; legal studies relating to agenda items of the Subcommittee and/or containing results of the research on the national and international regulations affecting space-related activities; and other documents prepared for scheduled meetings;

(vi) Ad hoc expert group:

a. Provision of assistance to the chairs of the action teams established by the Committee to implement the recommendations of UNISPACE III;

b. Depositary services: dissemination of information furnished to Member States in accordance with the Agreement on the Rescue of Astronauts, the Return of Astronauts and the Return of Objects Launched into Outer Space; and maintenance of a public register and database of information furnished to Member States in the A/AC.105/INF and ST/SG/SER.E series of documents in accordance with the Convention on Registration of Objects Launched into Outer Space;

(b) Other substantive activities:

(i) Recurrent publications: *Highlights in Space*; *Seminars of the United Nations Programme on Space Applications: Selected Papers*; and update of *United Nations Treaties and Principles on Outer Space*;

(ii) Non-recurrent publications: publications, displays and educational materials for distribution at United Nations seminars and workshops; and special publications, articles and reviews relating to United Nations space activities;

(iii) Exhibits, guided tours and lectures: maintenance of the exhibit on the benefits of space technology for improving life on Earth and for protecting the environment; presentations to Member States and space-related organizations; and presentations to Member States, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental entities on the work of the United Nations in outer space activities;

(iv) Booklets, fact sheets, wallcharts and information kits: booklet on the activities of the Office for Outer Space Affairs; booklet on the activities undertaken in the context of the implementation of the recommendations of UNISPACE III; and a poster for World Space Week;

(v) Special events: implementation of a programme of visits by astronauts and space scientists; organization and coordination of special events to celebrate World Space Week; organization of a forum of policy makers and experts on the use of space science and technology within the United Nations system to achieve the United Nations millennium development goals; organization of a forum on space policy; organization of the annual public forum to inform the general public of past, ongoing and planned space activities and the future direction of such activities; and short-term exhibit on the benefits to society of space science and technology to be held at Headquarters in

conjunction with the review by the General Assembly of the outcome of the implementation of the recommendations of UNISPACE III;

(vi) Technical material: improvement of the International Space Information Service web page and databases on various subjects relating to space science and technology for use by the general public as well as CD-ROMs of multi-media educational materials; maintenance of the web site on the work of the Inter-Agency Meeting on Outer Space Activities and inter-agency cooperation in space-related activities; and maintenance of the web sites of the action teams established by the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space to implement the recommendations of UNISPACE III;

(vii) Seminars for outside users: participation in international meetings of space-related non-governmental entities and in meetings of intergovernmental organizations addressing space-related issues;

(viii) Substantive servicing of inter-agency meetings: substantive servicing of the annual Inter-Agency Meeting on Outer Space Activities;

(ix) Documentation for inter-agency meetings: annual report of the Inter-Agency Meeting on Outer Space Activities and reports on the coordination of outer space activities within the United Nations system: programme of work for 2004 and 2005 and future years;

(c) Technical cooperation (regular budget):

(i) Advisory services:

a. Provision of assistance, upon request, to Member States, in particular developing countries, in the development of national space legislation and ratification of existing outer space treaties;

b. Provision of technical advisory services, upon request, to Member States and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to support national and regional programmes and projects in various fields of space science and technology;

c. Provision of technical and financial assistance to a limited number of selected participants in the long-term fellowship programme administered by the United Nations Programme on Space Applications;

d. Provision of technical assistance and nominal financial assistance to support the educational and training activities and the operation of the regional centres for space science and technology education;

e. Provision of technical assistance to build capacity in the use of space technology in disaster management or to build capacity in the use of the global navigation satellite system for sustainable development;

(ii) Training courses, seminars and workshops:

a. Training courses for participants from developing countries on selected topics dealing with remote sensing, communications, satellite meteorology and space science;

b. Workshops and meetings of experts for decision makers and programme managers on the use of space science and technology and applications in support of various aspects of sustainable development;

c. Workshops and meetings of experts in various regions of the world for participants from developing countries on selected topics in space science and technology and their applications;

d. Workshops on legal aspects of space activities;

(iii) Fellowships and grants: administration of long-term international fellowships in the field of space science and technology offered by Member States and space-related intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations;

(iv) Field projects: implementation of practical demonstration exercises, including the use of space applications within university curriculums in developing countries, projects in developing countries and provision of financial support to a limited number of participants of the regional workshops on the use of space technology for disaster management and the use and applications of the global navigation satellite system for sustainable development;

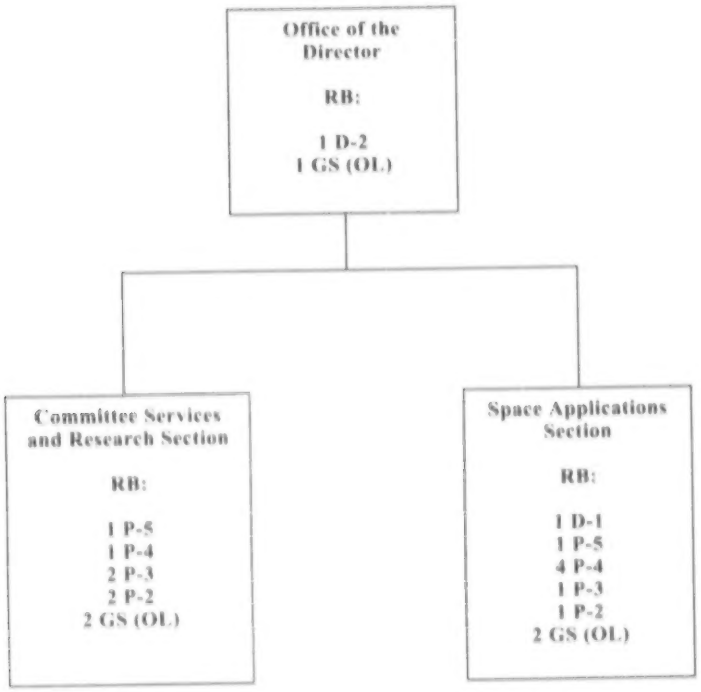
(d) Conference services, administration and oversight (regular budget): advisory services: provision of information, reference and other library services, through the reference service of the Office for Outer Space Affairs, on scientific, technical, policy and legal issues relating to space activities.

Table 6.6 **Resource requirements: programme of work**

	Resources (thousands of United States dollars)		*Posts*	
Category	*2002-2003*	*2004-2005 (before recosting)*	*2002-2003*	*2004-2005*
Regular budget				
Post	3 508.3	3 637.3	20	20
Non-post	807.0	936.3	-	-
Total	**4 315.3**	**4 573.6**	**20**	**20**
Extrabudgetary	826.0	700.0	-	-

6.16 The amount of $4,573,600 will provide for the continuation of 20 established posts and related non-post resources (see table 6.6). The increased requirements for non-post items are primarily for contractual services (external printing) previously reflected in the programme budget for conference services, United Nations Office at Vienna, for furniture and equipment and for grants and fellowships.

Office for Outer Space Affairs
Organizational structure and post distribution for the biennium 2004-2005[a]



Abbreviations: RB, regular budget; GS (OL), General Service (Other level).

[a] No change to the current organizational structure and post distribution is proposed.